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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Alan B. Nierenberg

Group Art Unit: 3743

Serial No. 10/083,920

Examiner: Ciric, Ljiljana V.

Filed: February 27, 2002

Atty. Docket No.: 52560.00008

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE REGASIFICATION OF LNG
ONBOARD A CARRIER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 3, 2003

Sir:

The Office Action dated October 1, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

The Office Action of October 1, 2003 was a restriction/election requiring that the applicant elects to prosecute one of the following inventions:

RECEIVED Invention I, recited in claims 1-3, drawn to a heat exchange system on a

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LNG carrier ; and

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Invention II, recited in claims 4-7, drawn to a method for regasifying LNG.

Applicant respectfully elect to prosecute the subject matter of Invention I, recited in

claims 1-3.

Paragraph 4 of the Official Action indicated that applicant elects to prosecute one of two species which were asserted to be disclosed in the application. The first species/embodiment of Figure 2, or the species/embodiment of Figure 3.

Applicant elects to prosecute the species of Figure 2. However, applicant respectfully submit that all of elected claims 1-3 are directed to the species of Figure 2, and further submit that these claims are generic to both species.


Figure 2 illustrates a configuration when submerged heat exchanger 21 is connected to vaporizer 23 and pump 22 with intermediate fluid circulated as shown. Figure 3 also includes a submerged heat exchanger 21, vaporizer 23 and pump 22, but also includes a steam heater 26, and various valves and additional piping. Claims 1-3 are all directed to an LNG carrier, comprising a vaporizer, a heat exchanger, an intermediate fluid, and at least one pump. Claim 2 adds the further limitation of the heat exchanger being attached to an exterior surface of the LNG carrier, and claim 3 is directed to the configuration when the heat exchanger is integral with the LNG carrier. The elements of claims 2 or 3, as well as the elements of claim 1, are common to the embodiments shown in Figures 2 and 3. Therefore, examination of all of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests timely consideration on the merits.

Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims at any point prior to the termination of the proceedings in the subject application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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